

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 888
By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Andre Kyle "Big Chill" Thornton, 2006 Valedictorian of Mitchell High School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence, have distinguished themselves in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Andre Kyle Thornton is one such exceptional student who was recently named Valedictorian of the 2006 graduating class at Mitchell High School; and

WHEREAS, through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and steadfast commitment of time and talent, Andre Kyle Thornton has achieved outstanding academic success and has joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our country; and

WHEREAS, in his remarkable high school career, Mr. Thornton has earned an exemplary grade point average while serving as a valued member of several scholastic and civic organizations, including the National Honor Society, Aspire Student Panel, Memphis Rotary Club Student Representative, Memphis City Schools Student Advisory Board, Student Government Class President, and Youth Crime Watch Vice-President; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton, a committed and talented athlete, was a member of the All State basketball team, All State cross country team, All Metro basketball team, and the All Tournament team; he was selected as Best Defensive Player for three straight years, served as Co-Captain of the varsity basketball team, Team Coach for Jerry Johnson's Books before Ball program, and attended the Reebok ABCD Camp in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Thornton has received numerous academic and civic awards, including the Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Award and the Urban League's Do the Right Thing Award; he is a member of the Distinguished Honor Roll,

a Wendy's Heisman Tennessee State Finalist, and has been honored with Brightest Students Recognition by *Proud Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, committed to community service, Andre Kyle "Big Chill" Thornton has generously donated his time and talents to numerous volunteer projects, including the Target House, Children's Museum, Senior Citizen's Community Center, Second Baptist Church Blessing Table in Joliet, Illinois, and a Hurricane Katrina Relief Drive; and

WHEREAS, Andre Kyle Thornton's display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for his future success at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida; in a testament to his achievements, Mr. Thornton was offered athletic scholarships from both Tennessee State University and the University of Central Florida and academic scholarships from both the University of Tennessee and St. John's University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton's noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for his parents, Arthur and Francine Thornton; his grandparents, Arthur and Myrtle Thornton, and Tommie and Pearlean Spights; his brother, Arthur Lee Thornton III; his school and community; and

WHEREAS, Andre Kyle Thornton's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor the 2006 Mitchell High School Valedictorian, Andre Kyle "Big Chill" Thornton, on his impressive academic achievement and extend to him our best wishes for a happy and successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.